Footrot: keep a close watch for lame sheep and footrot

Department of Agriculture, Western Australia

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FOOTROT

KEEP A CLOSE WATCH FOR LAME SHEEP AND FOOTROT

Footrot is a bacterial infection of the skin/horn junction inside the claw (right)

It results in lameness and usually affects more than one foot.

The infection spreads under the horn inside the claw and across the sole. The horn easily strips away from the soft, infected tissue underneath — which has a pungent smell.

There is no pus or swelling above the horn as seen with foot abscess. Foot abscess usually affects only one foot.

If in any doubt, contact the Department of Agriculture stock inspector. Footrot is a serious disease which is nearly eradicated in Western Australia.